

DATE: 11-14-2017

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105-2878

Miami, Florida
November 4, 19613-31-94
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CLASSIFIED BY 5108-SLS/mde
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X (11)
(JFK)

Re: MILITARY AND NAVAL MATTERS - CUBA

The following information was reported by MM T-1 on [October 30, 1961. This source is a [former Cuban investigator] (S) associated with the [Cuban National Police from 1934] who has (S) furnished reliable information in the past. He [arrived very recently from Havana, Cuba.] (S)

THE CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY NAVY

MM T-1 stated this branch of the armed forces of Cuba has never enjoyed the full confidence of FIDEL CASTRO. Source pointed out that many of his officers began to defect in 1959, and in the early Spring of 1960, a series of defections began to occur amongst his Naval officers who represented Cuba as Naval Attaches or Assistant Naval Attaches in foreign countries. Notable amongst these were the Naval Attaches of Cuba assigned to Venezuela, Mexico and the United States.

MM T-1 further recalled that many of the officers and men of the Revolutionary Navy had defected within Cuba and in some cases complete Naval units, including both men and officers, had defected and fled to the United States.

The principal work performed by the Revolutionary Navy at this time is that of extending a thin and ineffective patrol surveillance off of the North coast of Cuba, with the

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Miami, Florida

OCT 26 1961

3-29-94/05 XMB/mde
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FOREIGN ECONOMIC MATTERS - CUBA

The following information was furnished by MM T-1 on [October 16,] 1961. MM T-1 is [a former Cuban investigator who arrived very recently from Havana, Cuba.] This source has furnished reliable information in the past: [CS]

The majority of this report deals with the scarcity and manner of distribution of foodstuffs, as well as other articles of prime necessity in Cuba. For convenience it is subdivided under the headings of the principal food items.

COOKING OILS AND GREASE

The items which comprise the principal ones on the Cuban daily diet are scarce and rationed. Part of the difficulty in securing proper food in Cuba is due not only to the scarcity, but to the lack of organization in its distribution. The distribution system breaks down, and the articles do not arrive in the hands of the consumers with any consistent regularity.

A rationing system has been established for all cooking oils and grease. Rationing cards are issued to the people through the Comites de Defensa de la Revolucion (CDR - Committees of Defense of the Revolution).

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FOREIGN ECONOMIC MATTERS - CUBA

dictated a great number of controls and regulations, but has not brought into being any solution of the critical situation.

^{Ne.0}
 ^ Refrigerators, television sets and all types of major and small electrical appliances have disappeared from the Cuban market. The ones being sold to the public are "reconstructed". There has even been a planned and vigorous program to pick up all old appliances which were at one time considered beyond repair, and pieces have been combined in order to present at least a semblance of availability of such appliances to the Cuban public. Small quantities of electric irons, fans, unsatisfactory record players and other small appliances have arrived from East Germany, Czechoslovakia and other Soviet Satellite countries. The general public regards scarcity of practically all products for the home as alarming.

There is a lack of dentifrice products, deodorants, talcum, cosmetics in general, soap, hygienic products, razor blades, and even such items as towels, bed and table linen have become extremely scarce in Cuba.

^{Source}
 (U) (S) ~~ROLANDO DE LA CRUZ CASTANEDA IZQUIERDO~~, a former Lieutenant of the Cuban Revolutionary Police, born May 3 - ^{MONTH} ~~1942~~, in Havana, Cuba, arrived at Key West as a refugee in a boat on October 13 - ^{DAY} ~~1961~~. No previous contact has been had with him, but he manifested to Special Agents of the FBI at the Opalocka Immigration Facility on October 17 - ^{DAY} ~~1961~~ information similar in all respects, but not as detailed as the above. He confirmed the scarcity of all the products mentioned, that the local vendors had disappeared in the present communist regime in Cuba, and indicated that the INRA, as well as the Cuban G-2 and Cuban informers, have absolute control of the residents of every house and every block through the above described system of ration cards. This source noted that even the traditional Cuban habit of visiting with neighbors and having big family dinners together has disappeared from the Cuban life because of the impossibility of securing food without the proper ration cards.

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November 8, 1961

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4-8-94
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LATIN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIESVicious Circle

Information received from two former Cuban investigators who have recently arrived in the United States indicates that the economic situation in Cuba--despite assistance from various Soviet-bloc nations--leaves much to be desired. According to these two sources, increasing Government control over the means of production and distribution has resulted in a shortage of food and consumer goods, which in turn has brought on more controls and the vicious circle of an even greater shortage of items available to the general public. The reaction of the people, the sources say, is a combination of black-market buying, acts of sabotage, and desperation flights to the United States. (Emilio Diaz, former HAV-35, and Rolando De La Cruz Castaneda Izquierdo, former Lieutenant of the Cuban Revolutionary Police; MM airtel 10/26/61, re "Foreign Economic Matters - Cuba")

According to the first of these sources, the items which comprise the basis of the Cuban daily diet are both scarce and rationed. Part of the difficulty in securing proper food in Cuba, the source reported, is its scarcity. The rest is the lack of organization in its distribution. In an attempt to combat the food shortages, the Cuban Government has instituted a rationing system. The ration cards are issued to the public through the Committees of Defense of the Revolution. Generally, there is one such committee for each block, and different cards are used for different types of items. (Diaz, MM airtel 10/26/61, re "Foreign Economic Matters - Cuba")

Inferior Imports

The poor organization in the distribution of food--causing shortages in some markets and surpluses in others--has given rise to a situation popularly known in Cuba as Venta por la libre. This means the sale of a product without Government control, or the black market. One of the answers of the Castro regime to both the shortages and the resulting black market, the source said, is the importation of supplies from Soviet-bloc nations. The inferior quality of many of the imported items, however, has allegedly caused growing discontent among the people of Cuba.

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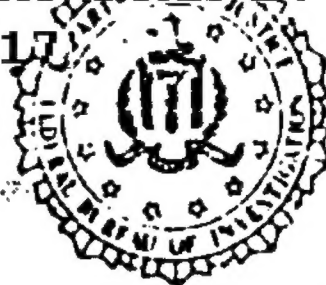
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MM 105-1742

Miami, Florida
OCT 4 1961

ANTI-FIDEL CASTRO ACTIVITIES
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

ORGANIZATIONSREVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL

X source, employed by
[ASCENCION LEYTE VIDAL, Secretary to] JOSE MIRO CARDONA, Head of the Revolutionary Council, in September, 1961, advised the Council still continues to exist; the members are in touch with each other and confer periodically. *all*

X
[LEYTE] identified the members as JOSE MIRO CARDONA, MANUEL ANTONIO DE VARONA, CARLOS HEVIA, JUSTO CARRILLO, and ANTONIO MACEO. *Source*

Member
The Revolutionary Council is considered the coordinating committee of the different Cuban revolutionary organizations, and during the April 17, 1961 invasion of Cuba, acted as the responsible organization for the invasion. It issued news releases, information, and acted as the headquarters for this operation.

On September 26, 1961, [VARONA] said that he expects the Revolutionary Council to dissolve and some new organization will be formed to take its place. The new organization will probably be headed by CARDONA and VARONA, with CARDONA as the head.

On September 26, 1961, [JUSTO CARRILLO] advised that he was considering resigning from the Revolutionary Council and being a free agent to work independently in the anti-CASTRO movement.

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DATE: 11-14-2017

Re: ANTI-FIDEL CASTRO ACTIVITIES

to obtain arms and transportation for a military venture in Cuba, but DIAZ is unable to obtain such equipment.

DIAZ is generally considered to have a large following in the Oriente and Camaguey Provinces of Cuba, and figures he could count on 5,000 to 6,000 people in Cuba to follow him if he could obtain the necessary transportation and equipment to open a front in Cuba.

Member Movimiento Recuperacion Revolucionaria
10/11/10
Florida
Cuba
Source

On July 27, 1961, [LEOPOLDO FUENTES ROCA] Miami, said he was formerly a member of the MRR in Holguin, Cuba, and had personally known "FRANCISCO", who is dead, and who was formerly in charge of the clandestine organization of the MRR in Cuba. [ROCA] said the second in command under "FRANCISCO" was OSCAR SALAS MARRERO, who is presently in Miami, and who is the official head of the MRR group in Miami.

[FUENTES] said there is considerable factionalism in the organization, and the MRR lacks transportation, arms, and financial backing.

On September 25, 1961, [ANTONIO VARONA] member of the Revolutionary Council, advised that the Revolutionary Council considers SALAS as the official head of the MRR in Miami, and membership figures for this organization are unknown.

JUNTA REVOLUCIONARIA DE LIBERACION NACIONAL (JUNTA)

MM T-2, who has been involved in Cuban revolutionary activities during the past three years, and who is in frequent contact with the Junta, and who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised in September, 1961, that the

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April 28, 1961

OVERVIEW OF CASTRO ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES1. Background of FBI Coverage

The FBI's investigative interest concerning the Castro movement dates back to October, 1958, when Fidel Castro briefly visited the United States on an organizing and fund-raising tour on behalf of his newly organized July 26 Movement with the announced objective of overthrowing the Batista regime. At that time, Castro and his followers established branches of the July 26 Movement at Miami, New York and several other United States cities and the Bureau initiated a thorough investigation of the activities of these groups. In November, 1958, the FBI disseminated to interested Federal agencies, including the Department of Justice, the first of many reports which were to follow regarding Castro and his followers. As a result of these inquiries, the Internal Security Division on December 22, 1958, concluded that Castro had incurred an obligation to register with the Attorney General under the terms of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1940, as amended. The registration was, however, never solicited as Castro left the United States on December 16, 1958.

After Castro left the United States, he returned to Mexico where he organized his forces for the invasion of Cuba (December, 1958) which was ultimately to result in the collapse of the Batista government and the advent of the Castro regime (January, 1959). However, even after Castro's departure from this country, we continued to afford close attention to the activities of his followers in the United States and by January, 1959, when Castro gained power, the FBI had already furnished other Government agencies a report on individuals and groups relating to the July 26 Movement, its members and its activities.

Immediately upon Castro's take over and the emergence of a pro-Soviet and anti-United States regime in Cuba, we sharply expanded our investigative efforts in this area. Previously, our investigations had been aimed primarily

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DATE: 11-14-2017

~~SECRET~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~COVERAGE OF CASTRO ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

(S) *Sensitive Source or method*

at determining if the activities of the Castro movement in this country were in violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act or the various neutrality statutes under our jurisdiction or otherwise posed a threat to our internal security. Beginning in January, 1959, we pointed our efforts toward the development of general intelligence data regarding the Castro movement. Specifically, [we instituted special coverage of] Cuban diplomatic establishments in the United States. [we made a concerted effort to develop confidential informants and sources among both pro- and anti-Castro elements in this country; we conducted interviews with numerous Cuban defectors, refugees and other knowledgeable sources in a position to provide firsthand information regarding conditions in that country; and we generally intensified all investigative matters relating to the Cuban situation.]

During the past two and a half years, our increased emphasis on Cuban matters, particularly with regard to pro-Castro activities, has been steadily accelerated. At the present time, the FBI has nearly 1,000 pending matters in this field representing a significant part of our over-all security work load; we have developed more than 300 separate sources; we are maintaining close coverage [of the operations of the various Cuban establishments] as well as the activities of all pro-Castro organizations and their leaders in the United States; and we are disseminating on a daily basis to interested agencies and officials a volume of information developed as an outgrowth of our coverage. [X](u)

There follows a summary of the extent and progress of the Bureau's coverage of various phases of Cuban activity in this country, together with our plans for future coverage in this field.

II. July 26 Movement

Following Castro's take over in Cuba, there was a temporary decline in the activities of the July 26 Movement as an aftermath of the Batista government's downfall. However, beginning in the Spring of 1959, with the rapid deterioration in United States-Cuban relations, July 26 branches were reactivated and became a focal point for pro-Castro propaganda.

- 2 -

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COVERAGE OF CASTRO ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATESIV. Officials and Establishments (S)(u)

Immediately following Castro's assumption of power, the Bureau took steps to institute coverage of key Cuban diplomatic establishments in this country. With the concurrence of the Department of State, special coverage was developed at the Cuban Embassy, the Cuban Delegation to the United Nations, and at the Cuban Consulates in New York City and Miami. We also undertook a program to develop informants and sources among Cuban diplomatic personnel. At this time we are maintaining sensitive coverage of both remaining Cuban establishments in this country (namely, the Cuban Delegations to the United Nations and the Organization of American States) as well as of selected Cuban officials. (S)

During the past two years we have conducted individual inquiries concerning the activities of numerous Cuban officials assigned to the United States whose activities were of interest. In the past year alone approximately 65 such officials have been investigated. During June, 1960, two Castro representatives were declared persona non grata by the Department of State based on data developed by the Bureau. (S)

Following the break in relations with Cuba in January, 1961, the Bureau undertook to systematically interview all Cuban officials assigned here who indicated a desire to remain in the United States. A total of 23 such representatives were interviewed; all were cooperative; and considerable intelligence data was secured, in some instances including the actual files and records of the various establishments involved. (S)

We are continuing to keep abreast of the remaining Cuban officials and establishments in this country and wherever possible we are seeking to develop information which might serve as the basis for persona non grata action or which could be utilized to the advantage of the United States. (S)(u)

V. Cuban Intelligence Activities

From early 1959 Castro intelligence agents have been active in the United States, particularly in the Miami and New York City areas. These agents, in many cases supported by

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REPORTING OFFICE MIAMI	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MIAMI	DATE AUG 10 1961	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 5/1/61 - 7/25/61
TITLE OF CASE ANTI-FIDEL CASTRO ACTIVITIES		REPORT MADE BY ROBERT JAMES DWYER	TYPED BY RJD: cms/bn
		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA	

REFERENCE: Report of SA ROBERT JAMES DWYER dated 4/26/61, at Miami.

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AT MIAMI, FLORIDA

Will continue submission of summary report regarding captioned subject matter every two months.

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<u>Identity</u>	<u>Location</u>
MM T-3 is [OSCAR DIAZ, Miami, Florida (by request)]	Instant Report, Page <u>3</u> .
MM T-4 is [MM 639-S]	134-238 Sub-A
MM T-5 is [MURRAY SHORAGO, Miami, Florida (by request)]	Instant Report, Page <u>6</u> .
MM T-6 is [CARMEN BONAFONTE, PSI]	Instant Report, Page <u>12</u> .
MM T-7 is [MANUEL DE JESUS ESPINOSA ALVEREZ]	[MEX 134-646]

Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed in this report, and "T" symbols have been utilized only in those instances where identities must be concealed.

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FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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- 1 - U.S. Border Patrol, Miami (RM)
- 1 - INS, Miami (RM)
- 1 - U.S. Customs, Miami (RM)

Report of: ROBERT JAMES DWYER Office: Miami, Florida
Date: AUG 10 1961

Field Office File #: 105-1742 Bureau File #: 109-584

Title: ANTI-FIDEL CASTRO ACTIVITIES

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

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(JFK)

Synopsis:

ANTONIO DE VARONA organized Rescate to justify his position of leadership in FRD. Rescate is a political organization awaiting the time when it can obtain political control in Cuba. MRR is reportedly without leadership, severe factionalism exists, and its future existence is questioned. JOSH IGNACIO RASCO has been re-elected as head of MDC. Some leading MDC members reportedly considering discontinuing cooperation with U.S. government. Agrupacion Monticristi organization of JUSTO CARRILLO has no membership or activity as such. MRP claims it was left out of important decisions and positions by Revolutionary Council (RC) and MRP divided on issue of withdrawing from RC. MANUEL RAY, head of MRP, decided on withdrawing. RAY in 7/61, claimed U.S. government forced his ouster from MRP leadership. ROGELIO CISNEROS is acting head of MRP and will try to establish unity in organization. Miami section of MRP has some members who refuse to accept RAY's replacement. RC has issued few press releases since 4/17/61, invasion failure. FRD continues to be heavily criticized for accepting former Communists and FIDELISTAS, squandering money, and refusing acceptance to former employees of BATISTA regime. MM T-4 said Cuban exiles have abandoned hope to overthrow Cuban government without outside help. There is activity to form a Cuban government in exile. Some sources say CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS is emerging as a leading figure in the anti-CASTRO movement. SANCHEZ ARANGO, head of an alliance of anti-CASTRO organizations, continues to denounce the FRD. [RUBEN DE LEON] former Cuban Minister of Defense is organizing former Cuban military men. American adventurers continue to come to Miami to join anti-CASTRO organizations.

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MM 105-1742

RJD:cms

DETAILS:

I. FRENTE REVOLUCIONARIO DEMOCRATICO (FRD)
(Democratic Revolutionary Front) Miami

In June, 1960, the FRD was formed as an alliance of several anti-Communist Cuban revolutionary organizations. Although the FRD has accepted into membership many other organizations, the following organizations are considered the most important, receive the most publicity, and exert the most influence:

1. The Authentic Party headed by MANUEL ANTONIO DE VARONA LOREDO.

MM T-1, who was an official in the Frente until June, 1961, advised on July 5, 1961, that VARONA had organized a political organization known as Rescate for the purpose of justifying his position as co-ordinator of the FRD.

MM T-1 explained that Rescate consists of some members of the Authentic organization, a Cuban political party, and maintains headquarters at 24th Street and Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, Florida. Rescate was organized by VARONA as a political organization to back him as the political leader of the anti-CASTRO movement among political exiles outside of Cuba and to give VARONA the nucleus of an established organization for future political power in Cuba.

MM T-1 advised that VARONA uses this organization as the basis for his position of leadership in the FRD. When VARONA was originally campaigning for this position, he claimed he represented the Authentic organization, but this was denied by many of the leading politicians in the

2.

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MM 105-1742

and had subsequently defected from the Cuban government and arrived in Miami about January, 1961. GUTIERREZ is regarded with suspicion and distrust by many Cuban exiles, who state they doubt his ambitions, sincerity, and anti-Communist feelings.

MM T-4, who has been active in Cuban revolutionary activities for the past four years, advised on July 17, 1961, that GUTIERREZ claims he is being threatened with deportation and detention by the United States government and if these threats continue, he and about 100 of his men in Miami will leave the United States and go to Cuba to engage in military action against the present Cuban government. MM T-4 said it was extremely doubtful that GUTIERREZ has any military equipment, money, or transportation, but that it is possible he could recruit 100 individuals in Miami to accompany him on such a venture.

2. Movimiento Recuperacion Revolucionario (MRR), Miami, was under the leadership of MANUEL ARTIME and has suffered considerable factionalism since it was originally founded.

On June 2, 1961, [ALICIA SUAREZ PEREZ], Miami, Florida, advised she had just returned from the underground movement in Cuba, where she belonged to the MRR and had engaged in sabotage activities. *Source*

She explained that the underground leader of the MRR in Cuba was "FRANCISCO," but that he is now dead. The leader of the MRR outside of Cuba is MANUEL ARTIME, who participated in the April 17, 1961, invasion of Cuba, was captured and is presently in jail in Cuba. [SUAREZ] *Source* explained that with the MRR leadership gone, there is considerable confusion in the organization and severe factionalism is continuing to develop in the United States. The organization has about 75 members in Havana and about

4.